

the National Guard as a chemical repair specialist, and was part of a team that installed armor kits on Humvees to protect soldiers.

Those who knew him know that he embodied all the qualities people admire about Nebraskans. His presence was an asset in any situation. His warmth and personality will be missed among his fellow troops, his friends, and especially his wife and his family.

I extend my sincerest thoughts and my deepest thanks to the family of SGT Fischer. He will be remembered for the service he has given to the American Armed Forces, and the ultimate sacrifice he has made for our country.

REMEMBERING THE NAPER 28

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Madam President, August 3, 2004 marks the 60th anniversary of what is believed to be the worst military aviation disaster in the history of the State of Nebraska. At 8:25 p.m. an Army C-47 transport airplane dropped from the sky near Naper, NE, killing 28 brave World War II servicemen. The dead included 26 Army pilots, one flight surgeon, and an aircraft crew chief. They were traveling from the Bruning, NE air base to Pierre, SD to complete their training before being shipped off to war.

On August 8, Naper Historical Society of Boyd County, NE will dedicate a permanent memorial to the Naper 28. They raised funds for the Naper 28 Memorial through a donation campaign. What is perhaps most touching about this fundraising effort is not the funds themselves, not even the speed with which they came, but it was the sentiments attached by way of note or letter from other World War II veterans or their widows. At the time of the disaster, very little attention was paid to this aviation disaster. Though it commemorates the tragedy that befell the Naper 28, the memorial at Knollcrest Cemetery in Naper, NE, also bears witness to a more enduring lesson in bravery and valor and preserving the freedom that defines America.

No doubt, the town of Naper, and citizens throughout Boyd County are delighted finally to have a fitting memorial for the 28 servicemen who lost their lives in 1944. It is fitting that the Naper 28 Memorial will be dedicated the same year as the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. This year marks an especially commemorative year for America's veterans, and is a year when all Americans gratefully remember and honor the bravery and valor with which America fought in World War II.

Anniversaries, like the 60th anniversary of D-Day and the 60th anniversary of the Naper 28, are important reminders about our history as a Nation, and about our character as Americans.

As America pauses to recall the thankless bravery and sacrifice of those who died protecting our freedoms on D-Day, the people of Naper and all

Nebraska also pause to remember the tragedy and sacrifices and lost opportunities of the Naper 28.

I submit the names of the brave souls of the Naper 28, as they appear on the memorial in Naper, NE, as further commemoration of their sacrifice.

They are as follows:

THE NAPER 28

F/O John F. Albert
2nd Lt. William F. Acree
2nd Lt. William Armstrong
2nd Lt. Millard F. Arnett, Jr.
2nd Lt. Herbert A. Blakeslee
2nd Lt. George E. Broeckmann
2nd Lt. Robert K. Bohle
2nd Lt. Jack L. Brown
2nd Lt. Richard E. Brown
2nd Lt. James C. Burke, Jr.
2nd Lt. Donald J. Clarkson
2nd Lt. Lloyd L. Hemphill
Sgt. Orson I. Hutsler
2nd Lt. Arthur Johnson
Capt. Clayton R. Jolley
Capt. Leonard C. Jolley
2nd Lt. Gerald C. Keller
2nd Lt. Jack E. Lytle
Capt. Stanley J. Meadows
2nd Lt. Robert E. Nesbitt, Jr.
2nd Lt. Bernard W. O'Malley
2nd Lt. Anthony J. Paladino
2nd Lt. Bruce S. Patterson
2nd Lt. Lelan A. Pope
2nd Lt. Charles V. Porter
Capt. Leslie B. Roberts
2nd Lt. Pat N. Roberts, Jr.
2nd Lt. LaVon H. Sehorn

MASS MURDER OF ROMA AT AUSCHWITZ SIXTY YEARS AGO

Mr. CAMPBELL. Madam President, during World War II, some 23,000 Roma were sent to Auschwitz, mostly from Germany, Austria, and the occupied Czech lands. Sixty Years ago, on the night of August 2 and 3, the order was given to liquidate the "Gypsy Camp" at Auschwitz. Over the course of that night, 2,898 men, women, and children were put to death in the gas chambers. In all, an estimated 18,000 Roma died at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

During the intervening years, Aug. 2 and 3 have become days to remember the Porrajmos, the Romani word that means "the Devouring," and to mourn the Romani losses of the Holocaust.

As the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum has suggested, Roma are "understudied victims" of the Nazis. What we don't know about the Romani experiences during the war is far greater than what is known.

But we do know that the fate of the Roma varied from country to country, and depended on many factors. We know that, in addition to the atrocities in Auschwitz, thousands of Roma were gassed at Chelmno. We know that an estimated 90 percent of Croatia's Romani population—tens of thousands of people—were murdered. We know that approximately 25,000 Roma were deported by the Romanian regime to Transnistria in 1942, where some 19,000 of them perished there in unspeakable conditions. We know that in many places, such as Hungary, Roma were simply executed at the village edge and dumped into mass graves. We know

that in Slovakia, Roma were put into forced labor camps, and that in France, Roma were kept in internment camps for fully a year after the war ended.

Still, far more research remains to be done in this field, especially with newly available archives like those from the Lety concentration camp in the Czech Republic. I commend the Holocaust Museum for the efforts it has made to shed light on this still dark corner of the past, and I welcome the work of nongovernmental organizations, such as the Budapest-based Roma Press Center, for collecting the memories of survivors.

I do not think I can overstate the consequences of the Porrajmos. Some scholars estimate that as many as half of Europe's Romani minority perished. For individuals, for families, and for surviving communities, those losses were devastating. Tragically, the post-war treatment of Roma compounded one set of injustices with others. Those who were most directly involved in developing the Nationalist-Socialist framework for the racial persecution of Roma—Robert Ritter and Eva Justin—were never brought to justice for their crimes and were allowed to continue their medical careers after the war. The investigative files on Ritter—including evidence regarding his role in the forced sterilization of Roma—were destroyed. German courts refused to recognize, until 1963, that the persecution of Roma based on their ethnic identity began at least as early as 1938. By the time of the 1963 ruling, many Romani survivors had already died.

During my years of service on the leadership of the Helsinki Commission, I have been struck by the tragic plight of Roma throughout the OSCE region. It is not surprising that, given the long history of their persecution, Roma continue to fight racism and discrimination today. I commend Slovakia for adopting comprehensive antidiscrimination legislation in May. As the OSCE participating states prepare for a major conference on racism, discrimination, and xenophobia, to be held in September, I hope they will be prepared to address the persistent manifestations of racism against Roma—manifestations that often carry echoes of the Holocaust.

NEED FOR THE INDEPENDENT NATIONAL SECURITY CLASSIFICATION BOARD

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Madam President, I am delighted to join my colleagues Senator WYDEN, Senator LOTT and Senator SNOWE in introducing a bipartisan bill that will begin to address our Government's dangerous tendency toward excessive secrecy.

I start from the belief that, in our democratic society, the people should have access to all information which their Government holds in their behalf. The only exceptions should be for necessary personal and company privacy concerns, such as tax returns, and for